

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

Mississippi Baptists team with veteran So. Baptist worker

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — Chris McNairy is spreading his vision for making disciples in Mississippi and beyond.

Through the outreach he has founded, Urban Fusion Network, McNairy is partnering with Baptist leaders in a state with the highest percentage of African Americans of any state in the union, at nearly 40%.

Among 2,000-plus Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi, only 40 are predominantly African American.

David Michel, associate executive director for mission strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, said Southern Baptists cannot afford to overlook such a large segment of the state.

"Chris McNairy is working with Baptist leaders to build new Gospel-centered collaborations in the four regions of the state with the largest black concentrations," Michel told Baptist Press. "The work is slow because of the historic racial barriers that exist, but we are praying for redemptive breakthroughs that will result in new Kingdom expressions of faithfulness and compassion."

McNairy launched Urban Fusion Network after more than a decade with South-

ern Baptists' North American Mission Board in several front-line roles, most recently coordinating church planting efforts in the District of Columbia. He also has served as African American missions leader with the Baptist State Convention of Michigan and as a pastor in Memphis.

McNairy envisions the Urban Fusion Network as a network of Great Commission-minded Christians, churches, and others focused primarily on urban missions in spreading the Gospel and enhancing Christian disciple-making.

At the African American Advisory Council meeting in Atlanta in February, McNairy set forth the network's disciple-making model and an overview of his work in Mississippi.

For McNairy, the central question is: "How can we engage from a Kingdom mindset and a biblical worldview to collaboratively plant the Gospel?"

"That's what we're working through [in Mississippi]," McNairy told Baptist Press. "It's about us as Christians saying, 'What does, Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven,' really look like in 2014?"

see TEAM on p. 5



HOW IT'S DONE — Chris McNairy (standing), founder of the Urban Fusion Network ministry, presents information on discipleship-making at the Atlanta meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention African American Advisory Council in February. McNairy's Urban Fusion Network and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board are partnering to reach the state's African American population for Christ. (BP photo)

CENTRAL HILLS



ROW, ROW, ROW ... — Three young men are shown enjoying a leisurely canoe excursion on the 16-acre lake at Central Hills Baptist Retreat. Central Hills offers a wide variety of activities for campers during the course of the year. (Special to The Baptist Record)

'Ready for business'

Central Hills prepared for busy camp season

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

When asked if Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko is "ready for business," manager Jim Ray said, "We really are!"

Tucked away in the gently rolling hills of Attala County, close to the communities of West and Possum Neck, Central Hills exists to serve the camping and retreat needs of Mississippi Baptists and other groups in an idyllic woodland setting. The facility caters primarily to girls and boys ages five through eight during the summer. What many don't realize is the number of amenities Central Hills offers. At Central Hills, campers have access to a lake with fishing and canoeing, an archery range, rifle range, putt putt golf, horseback riding, athletic fields, a gym, high and low ropes courses, and abundant meeting, lodging, RV camping, and dining space.

Ray said that the camp began with staff week April 19. "It's a good blend of the old and the new," he said. "Our staff is a good mix — about 55% old staff and 45% new. Our first event is a special needs camp. It really kicks things off with a bang. That group is so appreciative, and we love having them."

What can campers expect this summer?

"For the younger, little kids, we have a miniature ropes course," Ray said. "We had a low elements course already, but this year we can offer a smaller version of our high zipline and ropes, and some other elements closer to the ground. It's just like the bigger models. We've done a lot of work to the amphitheater with a wooden deck and a slab walkway. We've also remodeled the pool with two new diving boards and have resurfaced everything. It looks fabulous."

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Easter's Authenticity

If the non-religious elitists in the mainstream media are publishing articles calling into question everything Christians believe from the virgin birth of Jesus to His death and Resurrection, it must be getting close to Easter. What a coincidence!

No, that statement was not written in this space a few weeks ago as the secular academic and journalism worlds attempted to once again pass off the so-called gospel of Mary as genuine and worthy of acceptance and canonization. It wasn't even written when film maker James Cameron produced a documentary purported to prove that the tomb and ossuary (bone box) of Jesus had been discovered, thus confirming that the Easter Resurrection story must be a fabrication.

The statement was written in this space in April 2006, several years before all the nonsense listed in the prior paragraph, in reference to the latest (at the time) phenomenal archaeological find that was supposed to blow the lid off the practice of Christianity.

Mere weeks before Easter 2006, the National Geographic Channel aired a documentary on the newly-uncovered Book of Judas, which a National Geographic Channel promotion piece trumpeted as, "One of the most significant biblical finds of the last century – a lost gospel that could challenge what is believed about the story of Judas and his betrayal of Jesus."

The New York Times gushed that the Judas text was "troubling for many believers," and was producing "a new generation of Christians who now regard the Bible not as the literal word of God but as a product of historical and political forces that determined which texts should be included in the canon, and which edited out."

Did the Book of Judas bring the Christian faith crashing down in 2006? Hardly. A brief search of the Internet today will reveal that it was the Book of Judas that was debunked, not Christianity. Sorry, New York Times.

A similar fate befell the Cameron documentary the following

Easter. It turns out that legitimate archaeologists have known about the alleged tomb of Jesus for decades. Amos Kloner, the Israeli archaeologist appointed by the government there to study the tomb site in Jerusalem shortly after its discovery many years ago, criticized Cameron for his amateurish attempt at archaeology and said, "They just want to get money for it."

William Deaver, a widely-recognized professor emeritus of archaeology at the University of Arizona who spent his career unearthing such sites around the Near East, told Associated Press at the time, "It would be amusing, if it didn't mislead so many people."

For many years now, news media and entertainment outlets such as the New York Times, Newsweek magazine, the major broadcasting networks, and now cable outlets such as the History Channel have earnestly published and broadcast pseudo-investigative reports around the time of Easter with such profound story lines as, "Who was Jesus?" and, "The Real Christ." (Hint: It's not who the Bible says He is.)

Underlying such reportage is a transparent effort to reduce the Son of God to a simple mortal of no consequence in our enlightened day and age. Although couched in semi-respectable terms, the conclusion is always the same: *We just can't be sure Jesus was all that special.* How pathetically we are served by the news media in almost every way, but certainly when it comes to portrayals of Jesus and the Christian faith.

The Bible is the authentic Word of God, which declares Jesus Christ to be the authentic Son of God. We are the authentic followers of the authentic God and his authentic Son. Easter is an authentic event in human history and in eternity, as described and foretold in the authentic Bible.

What's so hard to understand about that? It seems some people are simply educated – or deem themselves sophisticated – beyond their intelligence.

Unfortunately, that fact really stands out at this time of year.

Keeping our treasures

Our youngest son Ethan recently mentioned to his mom and me that he had heard a couple of great new Christian songs he really liked. We asked what they were, hoping that we had been listening to enough Christian radio to perhaps recognize them.

Imagine our surprise when the songs he named were 100-year-old hymns. We couldn't help but show our disbelief. "Have you never heard those hymns before?" we asked. "Have you not been in churches that sang either of those?"

Perhaps he had, we decided, but apparently not often, or not at a time that he remembered. As we then reviewed the churches our family attended since Ethan was born, we realized that each of those churches had a contemporary worship style, or at least a blend of contemporary music and hymns. Therefore, hymns that I know by heart, sometimes even by page number, have become almost lost treasures to my son.

Music is just one example of the things in church life that sometimes need to change or evolve over time in order to stay relevant to new generations, but as my son's new love for old hymns illustrates, sometimes we let treasures that have lasting value slip away simply because we have not properly maintained them or passed them along effectively.

Cooperative missions giving is one of those time-proven treasures that we risk losing in the next generation if we do not more intentionally teach its value and practice its power. As with hymns, we may be assuming that what we have known by heart will always be with us, even if we're not rehearsing it regularly with new church leaders and members.

That's one reason many Southern Baptist churches set aside one special Sunday in April to inform and educate their church members about the incredible, week-after-week power of our ongoing missions support system known as the Cooperative Program.

This year national Cooperative Program promotion Sunday was April 13, but since that happens to fall on Palm Sunday, many churches may choose another nearby date for this emphasis.

Whether it was April 13 or some other time, intentionally educating everyone in the church about Cooperative Program missions is extremely important. Church members need to understand that the Cooperative



Guest opinion
with Nate Adams

Program portion of their church budget provides foundational support for thousands of faithful Baptist missionaries, throughout North America and around the world.

They need to know that hundreds of people groups in more than 150 countries are receiving the Gospel through these missionaries, and that thousands of new churches are being planted as a result.

Right here in North America, 900 new churches were planted last year, and coordinated ministries such as Southern Baptist Disaster Relief help place thousands of volunteers and chaplains right in the middle of people's deepest physical and spiritual needs.

Cooperative Program giving helps make theological training at six world-class seminaries affordable for tomorrow's pastors, church staff, and missionaries. It gives us an important voice in the culture through the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and the SBC Executive Committee.

Right here in Illinois, CP helps train more than 23,000 leaders each year and start 25 new churches.

There are lots of good resources at sbc.net to help church members understand how CP works and, more importantly, how many lives are being transformed through it as the Great Commission is advanced. There are short videos to use in worship services or small groups and well-designed print pieces ranging from bulletin inserts to multiple-page articles.

Many of us may assume that, like a treasured hymn, the Cooperative Program will always be there, always fueling the most effective and far-reaching missionary system in history – but that will only happen if we consistently and continually teach new generations of church leaders to carry the tune.

Adams is executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association in Springfield.

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'Noah' recasts ancient heresy, observers say

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — After two weeks in theaters, Paramount Studios' movie, *Noah*, has generated more than \$75 million in ticket sales and continues to provoke discussion among Christian commentators, including suggestions that the film's director, Darren Aronofsky, drew inspiration from the ancient heresy of Gnosticism.

Gnosticism, a religion that flourished during the first four centuries after the birth of Jesus, teaches that all physical matter is evil and that the goal of life is to attain "secret knowledge" that will free humans from entrapment in the physical world.

Physical matter is an accident created by an inferior deity, according to Gnosticism. Early Christian leaders, perhaps including some New Testament authors, refuted Gnosticism in their writings.

Back to Genesis

Meanwhile, reports indicate that Americans are reading the biblical story of Noah in Genesis at an increased rate in response to the movie, which stars Australia-born actor Russell Crowe in the title role. The weekend of Noah's release, biblegateway.com saw a 223% increase in views of Genesis chapters six through nine.

A Facebook survey by the American Bible Society found that 87% of respondents were reading the story of Noah because of conversations about the film.

Under an agreement with National Religious Broadcasters, Paramount added to Noah's opening credits the message, "The film is inspired by the story of Noah. While artistic license has been taken, we believe that this film is true to the essence, values, and integrity of a story that is a cornerstone of faith for millions of people worldwide. The biblical story of Noah can be found in the book of Genesis."

True reflection?

However, some observers question whether Aronofsky's casting truly reflects the Bible's "essence, values, and integrity."

"We are so living in the leftover atmosphere of Christendom that when somebody says they want to do 'Noah,' everybody assumes they mean a rendition of the Bible story," Brian Mattson, senior scholar of public theology at the Center for Cultural Leadership in Mt. Her-

A Gnostic outlook "appeals to the vague spirituality that has ballooned recently in Western culture, especially among those that have been identified as 'spiritual, but not religious.'"

Malcolm Yarnell,
professor
Southwestern
Seminary

mon, Ca., said in a blog post.

"That isn't what Aronofsky had in mind at all. I'm sure he was only too happy to let his studio go right on assuming that, since if they knew what he was really up to they never would have allowed him to make the movie."

Aronofsky, a graduate of Harvard University in Boston and the American First Institute Conservatory in New York City, is an avowed atheist who told *New Yorker* magazine before the film was released that he intended to create "the least biblical biblical movie ever made."

Noah is filled with Gnostic theology, Mattson said, specifically a form of Jewish Gnosticism called Kabbalah that was popularized by American pop singer Madonna.

Aronofsky's first feature film, *Pi*, which depicted the search for the equation that would calculate the perfect number to bring about a new messianic age, had Kabbalah as part of its subject matter as well.

Heresy pinpointed

Among the Gnostic references in Noah cited by Mattson:

■ Adam and Eve are depicted as luminescent and fleshless until they eat the forbidden fruit and are relegated to the evil material world.

■ Lesser divine beings (the film's giant rock creatures) redeem themselves, shed their material nature, and return to the heavens.

■ Earth's creator in Noah seems at times to be a violent lower deity.

■ The concept of the serpent as a representation of the true god dovetails with Aronofsky's portrayal of a serpent skin from the Garden of Eden as the key to receiving blessing.

Before Noah turns from a murderous frenzy and professes love for his newborn grand-

daughters, he kills his archrival and recovers the serpent skin — possibly a source of inspiration for his enlightened perspective.

■ The rainbow in Noah is circular like an important sign in Kabbalah. The rainbow appears not as the sign of a covenant between God and Noah, but appears after Noah wraps the serpent skin around his arm and blesses his family.

The movie "was a thoroughly pagan retelling of the Noah story direct from Kabbalist and Gnostic sources," Mattson said. "To my mind, there is simply no doubt about this."

He charged Christian theologians who gave the movie positive reviews with "a bit of theological malpractice."

"I'm not condemning or shaming anybody for seeing the film, talking about the film, debating the film, or even enjoying the film," he said. "I'm concerned that Christian leaders were basically asked to 'vet' the film for their constituents, and they came to conclusions that simply missed the themes I've highlighted."

Alternative version

J. Lee Grady, contributing editor of *Charisma Magazine*, also noted the Gnostic references, calling Noah "convoluted, bizarre, and blasphemous."

Aronofsky's goal, Grady said in an online commentary, "was to create an alternative version of the Genesis story — one that is more in line with ancient Gnostic heresies than with the Bible. And when Paramount Pictures pressured Aronofsky to re-edit the film to please evangelical Christians, he refused."

Grady cited the magical serpent skin and giant rock creatures who help Noah build the ark as details drawn from Gnostic and mystical traditions. Jewish mystics "suggested that the angels God cast out of heaven after creation were encased in rock and walked around helping human beings," Grady said.

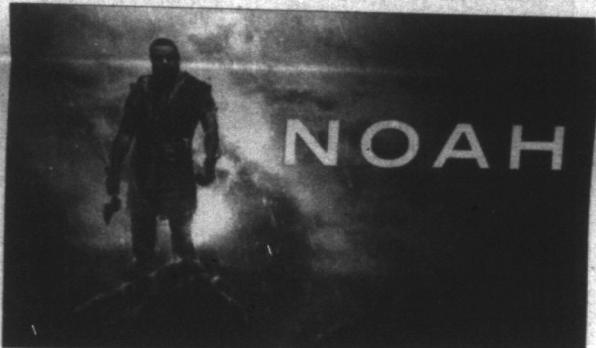
"In Noah, the giants, called 'watchers,' chop down the wood for the massive ark and defend it from an invading army. All this made for some great digital effects, but the Bible says God cast these disobedient angels into hell (2 Pet. 2:4), not to earth, and they certainly weren't sent here to help mankind."

Vague spirituality

Malcolm Yarnell, professor of systematic theology at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, said the Gnostic refer-



A BIG SPLASH — Actors Russell Crowe (from left), Jennifer Connelly and director Darren Aronofsky attend the premiere of *Noah* at the Ziegfeld Theatre on March 26 in New York City. (Debby Wong /Shutterstock.com)



ences in Noah are an example of Gnosticism's larger comeback. A Gnostic outlook "appeals to the vague spirituality that has ballooned recently in Western culture, especially among those that have been identified as 'spiritual, but not religious,'" Yarnell told *Baptist Press* in written comments.

Some contemporary scholars "have made a whole industry" out of studying Gnostic gospels and posing those writings as an alternative to biblical orthodoxy, Yarnell said, but Gnosticism's mixing of Christian and pagan beliefs is unbiblical as is its claim of secret knowledge about God, he said.

"Any claim for knowledge of God that goes beyond the texts of the canon of Scripture taps into the secretive urge of the Gnostic outlook," he said. "In response, we note that God

the Holy Spirit inspired and preserved for us a publicly-available text, which we call the Holy Bible, and it has included therein all that we need to know about God, much less Noah."

Christians should use the movie as an opportunity for sharing the Good News of Jesus, Yarnell said.

'Use it wisely'

Lost men and women "will have questions about Noah and the God behind Noah," he said. "Use the opportunity of the movie to tell them about God and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, but do so while exercising discernment. Be sure to correct misconceptions about Noah, and especially misconceptions about God."

"Use the opportunity of the movie, but use it wisely."

When he was born his parents named him James Hellwig. As he grew, it was evident that he was a strapping young specimen of a guy and in his older teen years he became a body builder. His hard work paid off in not only building a strong body but one that was a championship body, a trophy winning body. In time, James Hellwig decided to move from just body building to becoming one of the actors in the wrestling arena. There again he excelled. He became one of the most popular participants in professional wrestling, massive in size and with a great spirit that was charismatic. He began to be hailed as 'The Ultimate Warrior' and finally changed his name, legally, to Warrior. I long since stopped following all the hype and shenanigans of professional wrestling but needless to say they didn't go out of business when I stopped watching or even caring. Millions of people enthusiastically, excitedly, passionately follow professional wrestling. One week before Easter as he and his wife walked out of a hotel, The Ultimate Warrior, James Hellwig, collapsed just outside the hotel and died. He was 54 years old and he was gone.

A couple of weeks before his death he was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame and acclaimed worldwide as one of the greatest wrestlers ever; but, a week before Easter, he was dead. At 54 he was beginning new ventures in his life beyond just getting in the arena and throwing people around. He still seemed to be in good shape. It seemed as though life was good for him. Unexpectedly, unannounced, sadly, they called for help, they called for



Directions

With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The Ultimate Warrior

911, and he was rushed to the hospital there to be pronounced dead. The Ultimate Warrior was gone. He left behind a wife, two young daughters, friends and admirers, for shockingly and sadly, he discovered, his family discovered, and the rest of the world discovered that The Ultimate Warrior had been defeated by death. The declaration of Scripture is irrefutable, undeniable, and unmanageable. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). The Ultimate Warrior had joined the ranks of every person who ever lived. I'm sure at times he thought about death but no doubt would never have dreamed at 54 this massive, health-conscious, specimen of a man would have died at 54 nor would he have picked that day or that place for life to end but The Ultimate Warrior is gone.

This is Easter week which is unques-

tionably the greatest date on the Christian calendar. For once again we will celebrate. We will remember that Jesus died. We will consider again that He died on that cross; not for His sins, not for any flaws or failures in Him, not for any wrongdoing that He had committed or vile words He would have said, but He died for our sins. For every evil thought we ever had. For every evil deed we ever did. For every evil thing we ever said. He took all of my sins upon Him, all of the consequences of the wrong that I have done. Those were laid on Him, and Jesus died for me and for you.

The icy fingers of death gripped His life and the last breath was taken as He hung limp on that cross. They took Him down, wrapped His body in grave clothes and placed Him in the tomb. They sealed the tomb and life was over; death had claimed its greatest trophy. A day passed

and another and another and the tomb was quiet. Then on the third day, the third day, all would change. For on that third day the world was going to be introduced in ways so amazing, so dramatic, so victorious that truly, He, would be The Ultimate Warrior. No, His name was not James Hellwig; His name was Jesus, the Son of the living God, who is alive forevermore. For the very first time death had lost one of its victims. The mighty power of death had met The Ultimate Warrior. "And thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Jesus was, is and forever will be alive. Paul says in that great resurrection chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 that "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (v. 26).

Every day on average there are about 250,000 people who die on planet Earth. Our faith in the living Christ enables any and every person to live and die knowing that their confidence is in Jesus who became the first fruits of the resurrection, meaning He was the first one who escaped death, defeat, to live forever. But you and I by faith in Him can know that because He lives we shall live also. So be sure that you join together with a band of folks Sunday singing, praising, praying and celebrating that we truly do know The Ultimate Warrior who conquered death and shared life with all of us. In fact, don't wait until Sunday to begin, just break out in song right now. You will honor Him and you can bless somebody there around you.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

SBC messenger registration opens for 2014 meeting

The 2014 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) will be held June 10-11, at the Baltimore Convention Center, One West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Mississippi Baptist churches can use the online registration process at sbcamannualmeeting.net to pre-register messengers for the annual meeting, or contact Executive Administration, Missis-

sippi Baptist Convention Board, at (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. Email: mteel@mbcb.org.

SBC messenger cards are required in order to participate in the business sessions of the annual meeting and are mailed only by church request. For more information, contact Maria Teel at the above phone numbers or email.

Correction

In the Housetops section of the April 3 issue of The Baptist Record, an incorrect location was printed for the 2014 Senior Day Retreat on Tuesday, May 27. The retreat will be held at Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch, and not at the location listed in the announcement. For more information, contact Glenn Shows at (601) 292-3373 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 373. Email: gshows@mbcb.org.

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Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

House Tops.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 17, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

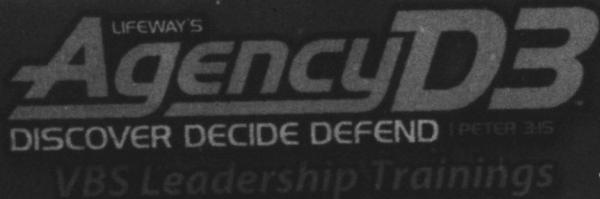
PREACHING 2014 CONFERENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
May 19
WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY
May 20
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
May 21

FEATURED PRESENTERS:

Daniel Caldwell, Ronald Meeks, Wayne VanHorn, C. Alan Woodward

FOR REGISTRATION & INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE
PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPT. OF THE MBCB:
601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org



Dates & Locations:
April 29 – Crossgates BC, Brandon
May 1 – Calvary BC, Batesville
May 5 – Easthaven BC, Brookhaven
May 6 – Carterville BC, Petal

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Just the Facts: Don't Miss Out on the Fun!

Preregister today & get a free VBS Inflatable!

*For more information contact the
Sunday School Department:*

Angie Boydston at aboydstun@mbcb.org or
Jo Wasson at jwasson@mbcb.org
or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292.
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • PO Box 530 •
Jackson MS 39205



TUESDAY, MAY 20 | FIRST BC, BROOKHAVEN

THURSDAY, MAY 22 | FIRST BC, LOUISVILLE

TUESDAY, MAY 27 | LONGVIEW HEIGHTS BC,
OLIVE BRANCH

12:30 P.M. REGISTRATION/ICE CREAM FELLOWSHIP
1:00 THE GATHERING
2:00 AFTERNOON WATCH
2:30 BREAK-OUTS 1
1. DISCOVERING THE JOY IN AGING
2. AGING FAITHFULLY
3. SEE SOMETHING NEW IN YOUR RETIREMENT
4. HIS STORY IN HYMNS
5. BIBLE STUDY: IN THE NAME OF JESUS, RISE UP
BREAK-OUTS 2 (REPEAT)
3:15 BREAK
4:00 CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
4:30 ADJOURN
5:30 COST: \$5 AT THE DOOR OR PREREGISTER ONE WEEK BEFORE TO RECEIVE A GIFT BAG.

TO REGISTER:

1. CALL 1-800-748-1651, EXT. 216, OR
2. MAIL REGISTRATION TO: MBCB CONFERENCE OFFICE
PO BOX 530
JACKSON MS 39205

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE
DISCIPLESHIP/FAMILY MINISTRY DEPT. AT THE MBCB
AT 1-800-748-1651, EXT. 284, OR 601-292-3284.**

Royal Ambassador Camporee

May 2-3, 2014
Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko, Miss.
4 pm. Friday - 3 pm. Saturday
Deadline: April 10, 2014

For more information contact the Men's Ministry Dept. at the MBCB at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 335, or 601-292-3335.

VISIT A CAMPUS

Going to college this fall?

Have you considered calling
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- Get helpful general information about the campus
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- Learn about area churches

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to attend, go to our
Web site:
www.mbc.org/BSU

Collegiate Ministry
601.292.3299
800.687.2736



FAMILY FEST

JULY 18-20, 2014

FamilyFEST is a hands-on missions project designed to help families connect with one another while doing missions/ministry together. Volunteers must be six (6) years old or older.

Cost:

\$25 per individual or
a maximum of \$100 per family
(immediate family - parents and their children)

Includes:

Registration fee, t-shirt, event insurance, some supplies, some meals.
(Additional cost will include: some project supplies, meals, and housing.)

To receive a registration packet for this event, contact the Mid-Delta Baptist Association at [mdbassoc@bellsouth.net](mailto: mdbassoc@bellsouth.net) or 662-843-8798.

FamilyFEST is sponsored by the Mid-Delta Baptist Association in partnership with Men's Ministry (MBCB) and Mississippi WMU (MBCB), Mississippi Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



MS WMU HISTORICAL BUS TRIP TO MARYLAND

June 5-13, 2014

Come Celebrate 125 Years of WMU

Total costs:

Single - \$1525/person; Double - \$1125/person; Triple/Quad - \$950/person
o \$250 deposit due by April 4

o Trip includes: tour of national WMU offices in Birmingham, Annie Armstrong and WMU history sites in Baltimore as part of the WMU Annual Meeting, tours of IMB and International Learning Center in/near Richmond and visits to Lottie Moon sites around Virginia.

o We are partnering with Louisiana WMU for this bus trip; great fellowship is ahead!

For more information contact the MS WMU office at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 323, or 601-292-3323.

MK RE-ENTRY RETREAT

July 28—August 1, 2014
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Clinton, MS



MK [em-kay] noun: Missionary Kid

The MK Re-Entry Retreat is for children of international missionaries who are entering college in the United States for the first time. The retreat provides a setting for MKs to process the transition to college and life in the U.S. Approximately 100 students attend this event each year.

Involve your church by Adopting an MK and/or contributing to a Gift Card!

Responsibilities if you Adopt an MK:

- Your \$100 donation, which will be used to purchase select school items for your student
- Your commitment to pray for your student during the MK RE-ENTRY Retreat
- Your commitment to pray for your student during his/her first year of college

Gift Cards will be given to all MK students to be used as they settle into college.

Please contact WMU for an adoption form or for more information.
psmith@mcb.org / 1-800-748-1651, ext. 336

WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting

Baltimore, Maryland



"Go Forward!" -Annie Armstrong

It's the home of Annie Armstrong and the first home of WMU. Join us June 8-9 in Baltimore to trace the steps where it all began and celebrate vibrant missions involvement through WMU today!

Sunday, June 8

4:00 p.m.

Commissioning Service for IMB and NAMB Missionaries
Baltimore Convention Center Ballroom
(Corner of Pratt Street and Howard Street)

Monday, June 9

Missions Celebration
Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel
101 West Fayette Street

The event is free, but advance registration is required to participate in the bus tour of Annie Armstrong sites. Register online or call WMU toll-free at 1-800-968-7301, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (CST). Registration is open February 1-May 15.

For more information contact the MS WMU at the MBCB at:
1-800-748-1651, ext. 319, or 601-292-3319

2014 SBC Church Compensation Survey

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www.GuideStone.org/CompensationSurvey

Deadline is May 31!

Take the survey for a chance to win a free iPad!

For more information contact Robin Nichols, MBCB GuideStone representative at 601-292-3226.

2014 THROUGH & RISE UP BIBLE STUDY REACH OUT CONFERENCES

JULY 12, 2014
NORTH GREENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENWOOD

AUGUST 9, 2014
PETAL-HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PETAL

CONFERENCES FOR PASTORS, GENERAL OFFICERS, AGE GROUP MINISTERS AND ALL BIBLE STUDY LEADERSHIP

Come to be encouraged, challenged, motivated, and equipped to help your Sunday School and Small Group Bible Studies make a difference in your church and your community. Hear Dr. Wayne Marshall and Dr. Larry LeBlanc bring challenging and timely messages from their strong Christ-centered Sunday School churches. Bring your Sunday School leadership to exciting break-out sessions for all age groups to help you become more dynamic leaders.

SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9 a.m.	Registration outside of Worship Center
9 – 9:30	Keynote Speaker
9:30 – 10:30	Preschool, Children, Student, Adult, Pastors/General Officers Conference One & Breakout Sessions
10:30 – 10:50	Break
11 – noon	Preschool, Children, Student, Adult, Pastors/General Officers Conference Two & Breakout Sessions

July 12, 2014

North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood

8:30 a.m. - noon

Dr. Wayne Marshall
Keynote Speaker &
Pastor/General Officer Leader

August 9, 2014

Petal-Harvey Baptist Church,
Petal

8:30 a.m. - noon

Dr. Larry LeBlanc
Keynote Speaker &
Pastor/General Officer Leader

Sunday School Department, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or 601-292-3291
Fax 601-714-7430, e-mail cday@mcb.org

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 (locally)

Pray this day for...

April 18 – May 8, 2014

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Pray for: **Tony & Denita Irimon**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church-planting & church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Lew & Brandi Johnson**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Millard & Susan Jones**, missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Melinda Kyzar**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through personalization, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael & Patricia Holyfield**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African & Middle Eastern Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Bob & Amy Little**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples.

Pray for: **Asbury & Jeannie Martin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert & Janice Mooney**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Sarah Perkins**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through mission support, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Amy Purt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through volunteer coordination, community outreach.

Pray for: **Eugenia & Tracy Putnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Linda & Mike Ray**, missionaries to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Nickolee & Steven Roberts**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Marty & Suzanne Roberts**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Ruth & Steven Robertson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Sharp**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Mississippi Baptist STATE SENIOR ADULT *Choir Festival*

May 6, 2014

FBC, Ridgeland

302 W. Jackson Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-856-6139

Schedule

Morning Session

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Festival begins

Afternoon Session

12:45 p.m. Registration

1:15 p.m. Festival begins

For more information, call the Church Music Dept.
601-292-3267 or visit our Web site at www.mbc.org

To order your 2014 Stewardship Resources, please contact the CP/Stewardship Promotion Department:

1-800-748-1651, ext. 347

or

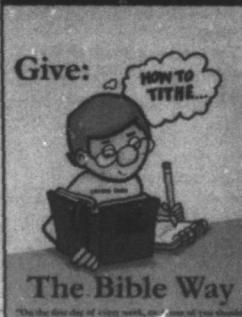
601-292-3347

or

lleavell@mbcb.org



Give: Share the Good News



Give: The Bible Way

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money according to his income; saving it up, so that when I come no collector will have me for trouble."

1 Corinthians 16:2

Give: Bring the Whole Portion



HOUSE TOPS

BIBLIOCRYPTER

XJU BRNMN XJNARIZJO NXZU MJCD

CERQ, CERH CEXC XIR AEDGR JRRU

JDC X LEHNVZXJ; WMC CERH CEXC

XIR NZVF.

GMFR KZSR: CEZICH-DJR

Clue: Z = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Forty: Eight

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

MS POSITIONS

LONGVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (PONTOTOC COUNTY) PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR: Please send resumes to Longview Baptist Church c/o Pastor Search Committee 406 Dooler Hill Rd, Broken Bow, MS 38826.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE SHADY GROVE COMMUNITY OF LAUREL, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Please send resume to: Trinity Baptist Church, Attn. Pastor Search Committee, 35 Trinity Rd., Laurel, MS 39443.

SCOTLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, VIMOKA, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Please e-mail resumes to hawaller@gmail.com or call 662-417-0869 for more information.

BETHSAIDA BAPTIST CHURCH IN FRENCH CAMP IS SEEKING A PIANO PLAYER/CHOIR DIRECTOR. THIS IS A PART-TIME POSITION. Interested people should contact Tony Thomas at 662-547-6616 or Pastor Alex Lawson at 662-674-0366. Email inquiries can email lawson233@wildblue.net.

YALE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IN CLEVELAND, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to Charles E Weeks, 510 University St., Cleveland, Ms. 38732, e-mail cweeks1940@cableone.net

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, MCCOMB, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. This person should be able to hold on to traditional elements of worship while moving to a more contemporary style. Please send resumes to cbcmccomb@yahoo.com.

TYRO BAPTIST CHURCH IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to Tyro Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, c/o Jerry Eoff, 6976 Loxahoma Tyro Rd., Senatobia, Ms. 38668.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR/PREACHER. Please send resume to: New Sight Baptist Church, 629 Forest Tr., Brookhaven, Ms 39061 or email to rmax08@hotmail.com or fax resume to 601-833-0791.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 84 ROYAL BLUE CHOIR ROBES IN ALL SIZES WITH STOLES. \$40 per robe or \$30 per robe if you buy all. Contact Macedonia Baptist Church, 601-833-6760.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FOLEY, ALABAMA IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE FULL-TIME POSITION OF MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. Please email resumes to scollins@fbcofoley.com.

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TEAM

cont. from p. 1

"The Kingdom is not a subset of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The SBC is a subset of the Kingdom," McNairy said. "I understand there is one biblical worldview. We as a body of Christ must begin to embrace what this looks like as we work both within our own family denominationally and collaborate with others."

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Chris McNairy

Urban Fusion Network founder

of planting churches, however, may have only limited success in the African American community, McNairy said.

Records reflect that more than 50% of black SBC churches were churches before becoming a part of the SBC," he said, noting, "The peoples of the African Diaspora are the most spiritual of the six major diasporas, and missions work.

The zones reflect a missional analysis of peoples, places, interests, needs, and godliness — elements of what McNairy calls "mapping" to discover current realities in the mission field.

"In late spring of 2013, work began in the [Mississippi] Delta which includes the North Delta Baptist Association and the Mid-Delta Baptist Association. We began work in the Jackson metro zone in January of this year and we hope to begin work in the northwest Mississippi and Gulf Coast zones later this year," McNairy said.

"We are being very respectful of the fact that each of these areas [is] unique. ... God is already at work and there are other disciples who have joined His work."

A typical missional strategy

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

Canada, McNairy said he intends to share current and projected demographic realities and evangelistic strategies, explore worldviews of peoples of the African diaspora, and share approaches to engaging and partnering with established churches.

Already available at amazon.com are McNairy's book, *Missional Urban Fusion: Planting the Gospel in 21st Century America*, and the accompanying workbook, *Christians Responding to America's 21st Century Urban Fusion Realities*.

"We're not in the segregated America that we used to live in," McNairy said in a 2013 Baptist Press story, "but neither are we in a post-racial America. ... We're in what I call an urban fusion America, where we are 80% urban as a nation..."

"Urban is much broader than black," he noted, pointing to a "fusion of peoples who have come from everywhere to America, so much so until there's no place on the planet like America," where "worldviews cross-pollinate beyond skin color [and] ethnicity."

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

DECEMBER 2013

MEMORIALS

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Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Allen
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Mr. & Mrs. Greg L. Wilkinson
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Mrs. Willie B. Cole
Mrs. Camille Colucci
Mrs. Vann E. Williams
Mr. Edward Lareau Cooper
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Adults Ladies TEL SSC, Springfield BC
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Mrs. Tena Haskins
Carr Haskins
Mrs. Tena Haskins

SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING

APRIL 29, 2014

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Baptist Children's Village has partnered with the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and Morrison Heights Baptist Church to provide SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING to help reduce the risk of child abuse in your communities.



Event is free but registration is required.
For more information call (601) 952-2422 or visit www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Be Amazed by the Resurrection • Mark 15:16-20, 33-34, 37-39; 16:1-8

As we move closer to the celebration of Easter, it is helpful to note that many people do not celebrate because it is in recognition of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. For many it is just another holiday to get together with family and friends, and for others it is a much needed three day weekend to indulge in whatever activity they desire. Even many believers have lost sight of the true significance of why we celebrate Easter. Our real life experiences have taught that no one returns from the dead, but Jesus did! That is what we are celebrating at Easter. Because of His death, burial, and resurrection, we have the opportunity to receive His righteousness and the forgiveness of our sin. The reality of His laying down His life for us should move us to humility, amazement and faith in Him. His bodily resurrection validates the fact that He is Lord and He is the Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is the central tenet of the Christian faith.

Be Humbled (Mark 15:16-20)

The reading of the biblical account of the crucifixion of Jesus is a very moving experience. It was not until I witnessed the portrayal of His crucifixion in an outdoor drama that it really hit home

just how much He endured for me. He was beaten, mocked, spit on and tried unjustly. The soldiers beat Him, placed a purple robe on Him, and wrote the inscription "King of the Jews" on it. While their intent was to mock Him, the inscription really was true. He is the King of the Jews and the King of all mankind. How sad it is that so many have the opportunity to approach Jesus humbled by His suffering for them, but like the soldiers they mock Him

by their refusal to believe He died and arose for them. Jesus was God in the flesh and He came to seek and save the lost. He came to ease the suffering of the afflicted and to walk with His creation through all of life's experiences, good and bad. We should be humbled by His indescribable act of love for us.

Believe (Mark 15:33-34, 37-39)

When we come face to face with the

Explore the Bible with Huey Dedmon



reality of what Jesus has done for us, our response should be to believe. As we read Mark's account, we see the reaction of one of the soldiers who participated in the crucifixion. The soldier had probably seen many crucifixions. It was a common form of punishment in the Roman Empire. He had seen many people take their last breath on a cross, but he had never seen anything like he saw when Jesus took His last breath. It made such an impression on him that it

moved him to proclaim, "This man really was God's Son." (15:39 HCSB) His proclamation was a statement of his belief that he had never encountered anything like what he was experiencing that day. The sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross should cause us to react just like this centurion, in total belief. As you participate in the study of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, you are being given a chance to affirm your

belief in Him or to proclaim your belief in Him for the first time.

Be Amazed (Mark 16:1-8)

As I watched the outdoor drama I mentioned before, during the rolling of the stone away from the tomb of Jesus I was literally brought to tears. In total amazement, I watched as the women came to the grave and found it empty. Many people may think that the stone was rolled away so Jesus could get out, but I believe it was rolled away so that witnesses could see inside. The angel declared to the women, "Don't be alarmed," he told them. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has been resurrected! He is not here!" (16:6 HCSB) The women not only found the tomb empty, but they were also given instructions to go and tell the disciples and Peter what they had witnessed. At first they were overwhelmed by what they had seen and kept it to themselves, but later on I can imagine how they spread this great news to everyone they met. It is the greatest news of all time and God wants us to share it with everyone we meet.

Dedmon is Associate Pastor for Education and Outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

But Now...Victory! • 1Corinthians 15:20-28

This coming Sunday, we interrupt our newly-begun unit of lessons on "Hope" to bring you a lesson on "Victory." After all, Sunday, April 20th will be our 2,014th year to celebrate THE (as in one and only, biblically-certified, God-ordained, original and official) Resurrection Morning. Please be assured that this victory celebration lesson U-turns us right back to Hope Boulevard, making sure that we don't miss any turns along the way. Victory over death because of the work of Jesus is the reason we have Hope!

The words of this familiar pastoral prayer are written into the front page of my Bible: "...and Father, today as I give this message, please let me decrease and let You increase...don't let these people see Fred...let 'em see Jesus...to the end that The Savior would be glorified...The Saints would be edified...and OI'Satan would be terrified...for it is in the name of Jesus I pray...Amen and Amen."

Dr. Fred Luter, Jr. is pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana and the current President of our Southern Baptist Convention. During my years as a student and staff member at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Luter would be invited to preach during week one of our chapel services each fall semester. You had to get there early to

grab a seat. My advice? Bring your own seat belt.

I have heard Brother Fred say that prayer in one breath, right after his scripture reading/sermon introduction. Then, with his sweat rag (handkerchief) in one hand and his Bible in the other, he would commence to deliver his message. He would wave those come-to-Jesus arms until his suit coat sleeves would ride all the way up to his elbows, leaving his pressed shirt sleeves and cuff-links grinning at you. I think even his cuff-links were saying by the end of every sermon.

Brother Fred loves Jesus and he wants YOU to know Jesus and love Him, too. From glory to gory, Jesus came willingly from Heaven to Earth. He lived a perfect, sinless life. He died a gruesome, sacrificial death on a cruel cross. He was raised to life in final and total victory over death so that we could be saved and live with Him forever in Heaven.

Our lesson comes from a sermon Dr. Luter preached from 1 Corinthians 15. Paul's treatise on the resurrection of Jesus. There are three points to his outline. (1) We are all dead because of Adam. (2) We are all alive because of Christ. (3) Because of the resurrection, we are victorious. Friends, in profoundly simple terms, there is the gospel.

Thank goodness for the difficult church folks in first century Corinth.

We have so much to learn from them because we are just like them. Paul's desire was for his own beloved nation of

Israel to be saved. When Israel turned a deaf heart to Jesus, Paul was sent to the Gentiles (non-Israelites...you and me!) with the gospel. Jesus died to save everyone. God raised Him from the grave to prove it to the whole wide world then, now and forever.

Adam and Evil: that's what my favorite five-year-old theologian appropriately dubbed Mr. and Mrs. Adam. As their teeth broke the skin of the piece

of fruit plucked from that one forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden, our spiritual condition was sealed. From that moment, mankind has been BORN in need of a Savior. God sent His Son to deal a fatal blow to death and breathe resurrection victory into the lives of all those who would believe in Jesus.

Christians serve a risen Savior, not some dead (still buried) peddler of false teaching. No other "faith" or "belief" system can make that claim. The truth of the gospel is confirmed by the fact of the resurrection. In the first nineteen verses of 1Corinthians 15, Paul nails down his argument neatly, without equivocation. I would outline that chapter with two bullet points that shoot down any opposition: No Resurrection? No Savior!

Victory over death was the target. Resurrection was the ammunition. Salvation assured was the bull's-eye. The arrow of the life of Jesus was launched. The silence of the grave was deafening. Jesus arose as the first fruits of all believers who sleep in death. Adam and Eve ate the fruit. Like a fruit seed, Jesus fell to Earth and DIED so that He might bring forth LIFE! Tune in next week for "hope" lesson two...

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland

CENTRAL HILLS

cont. from p. 1

The capacity of the camp is 200 kids, Ray said. "I need to point this out, because we do

often max out our capacity," he noted. "That's a positive in the fact that we fill up."

Central Hill's largest camp is its three-day co-ed camp. "We have seven sessions of it," Ray said, "going to that

format about ten years ago. We tripled attendance over that time. We were averaging about a thousand kids a summer prior to that, maybe eleven hundred. Within three years, we jumped up

to 2,700. We are constantly up well over 2,000."

Ray is excited about the purchase of the camp's new property. "That almost doubles our riding area for the statewide trail ride," Ray

said. "There were already good trails in that area. It also replaces some of the woods we lost in tornadoes. There is lots of wildlife and hiking trails." The purchase is approximately 187 acres.

Just for the Record



EVERGREEN CHURCH, WINSTON ASSOCIATION. ordained Neal Higgason as deacon Feb. 9. Show are pastor Justin Wilcher and Higgason.



The children's choir of **CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, presented special music in the morning worship service Apr. 6, and performed later that day at the Haven Hall Nursing Home in Brookhaven. Danny Creel, minister of music; Hal Hatten, pastor.



MID-DELTA CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS in Indianola and Cleveland held their joint 2014 spring graduation at the Temple of Deliverance Church in Indianola on March 30. Tammy Anderson, MBCB WMU Consultant, gave the charge to the candidates. The Indianola graduates are: front row, Zania Jennings, Vickie Lefiore, and Porchiana Morgan. The Cleveland graduates are: back row, Reatha Chase, Brenda Brown and Emma Davis.



The Young at Heart from **CENTER HILL CHURCH, HAMILTON**, purchased fabric and made throws for the Aberdeen Care Center and Pioneer Assisted Living.



FIRST CHURCH, LAUREL, held a 5th Sunday youth-led service Mar. 30. Youth minister Shannon Slover is shown praying the benediction over the students.

In other Church News:

► **Big Liver Church, Wiggins**, is hosting a 5K run and 1 mile run/walk Apr. 26. Registration, 7:30 a.m. For more information, call (601) 528-0391.

► **Overflow Church, Magee**, is offering Sentinel Training May 3, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. for people going or interested in participating in foreign mission trips. The course is a faith-focused travel security program. Cost, \$40. Registration deadline, Apr. 28. For registration, call (601) 849-6407.

► **Corinth Church, Magee**, is having a Good Friday service Apr. 19, 7 p.m.

► **Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn**, is having a Passion Play Apr. 18 and 19, 7 p.m. David Haynes, pastor; Kenneth Leslie, music.

► Christ's Cross at the Crossroads, the largest cross in Mississippi, will be dedicated Easter Sunday morning. It is at the intersection of I-55 and Highway 82. The 10-member board responsible for the project include members from **First Church, Winona, North Winona Church, and Poplar Springs Church**.

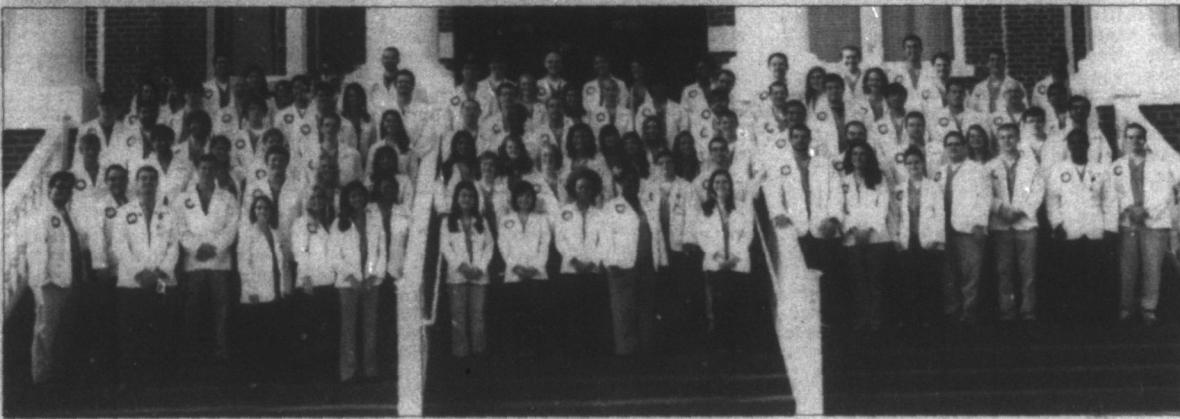
► **First Church, Gautier**, is hosting a sunrise Easter celebration Apr. 20, 7:30 a.m., followed by coffee and fellowship. Scott Sullivan, speaker.

► **Macedonia Church, Petal**, is hosting a community Easter celebration at the Petal Performing Arts Center Apr. 19, 6 p.m., and Resurrection Sunday services at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. Apr. 20.

College News



(At left) Janet Williams, RN, PhD, dean of the **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** School of Nursing, was recently appointed by Governor Phil Bryant to serve on the State Board of Nursing. She has served in the school of nursing for over 20 years as a teacher and administrator, and most recently, as dean. Williams was elected by her peers to serve as Vice Chair for the Mississippi Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) Deans and Directors committee for the Schools of Nursing in 2012, and served as Chair for the committee in 2013. She received a BS in nursing from The University of Southern Mississippi, a MSN in adult health nursing from University of Alabama in Birmingham, an MBA from University of South Alabama, and a PhD in educational leadership from USM. (At right) **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** sophomore Emma Oberdick, Wadsworth, Ill., won first place in Sophomore Women at the annual National Association of Teachers of Singing Conference and Competition at Bellhaven College, Jackson, Mar. 21-22.



In other College News:

► **Mississippi College** will hold its spring 2014 undergraduate commencement May 10 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Jim Futrell, speaker. The graduate school commencement will be May 9, 7 p.m. Ted Snazelle, speaker. The School of Nursing commencement will be May 9, 2 p.m. Sandra Robinson, speaker.

The 2014 inaugural class of the **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** College of Osteopathic Medicine will hold its graduation ceremony May 24. The total school enrollment for the 2013-14 year was 391.